



VOF 6851.1
PATENT

Optical 4D
84
9/25/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of V.J. Flanigan

Art Unit 1764

Serial No. 10/081,521

Filed February 22, 2002

Confirmation No. 2948

For PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR THE DESTRUCTIVE DISTILLATION OF RUBBER

September 17, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT B

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

Please enter the following amendments prior to examination of the above-referenced application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

26. (new) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19 further comprising means for monitoring weight loss of the rubber in the distillation chamber as a result of pyrolysis.

27. (new) The apparatus as set forth in claim 26 wherein the weight loss monitoring means comprises a load cell.

28. (new) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19 wherein the heating means associated with said distillation chamber comprises radiant heating tubes in which a mixture of a hydrocarbon and an oxygen-containing gas is combusted.

29. (new) The apparatus as set forth in claim 28 wherein the oxygen-containing gas is air.

RECEIVED

SEP 20 2002

TC 1700